



Council of Mayors Executive Committee Report to Transportation Committee – September 18, 2009

The Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on September 15 and discussed the possibility of rescissions of unobligated balances at the end of the month for 16 federal transportation programs including STP and CMAQ. They were informed that Illinois stands to lose \$290 million in transportation funding and the state would also lose \$4.5 million for regional planning if the rescissions occur. The Committee decided to contact their legislative representatives to remind them that Northeastern Illinois has tremendous transportation needs and will not be able to address them effectively if federal transportation funds are rescinded. Members will urge their congressional representatives to support an 18-month extension of SAFETEA-LU and to stop the rescissions before the September 30 deadline. The Planning Liaisons will work to get this message out to all of the mayors in their regions. The committee agreed that a meeting will need to be held to determine how the rescission will affect the local Surface Transportation Program if it occurs.

The Committee approved the Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Surface Transportation Program programming marks and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act programming marks. They also approved an advanced funding request of \$165,000 for the Bluff Avenue project in the Central Council of Mayors.

The Planning Liaisons presented a spending policy they developed with IDOT and CMAP staff outlining how ARRA funds will be redistributed for projects that will not make the October deadline for pre-final plans. The Committee approved the policy to ensure that all locally programmed funds available to the region are spent.

Staff gave an overview to the Committee on the outcome of the Invent the Future workshops, website, festivals, fairs, and kiosk participation throughout the summer for the *GO TO 2040* outreach effort. Information on participant's choices on inventing the future can be found at www.goto2040.org.

Cambridge Systematics (CS) is working under contract for CMAP to develop freight recommendations for the *GO TO 2040* plan. CS staff led a discussion with the Committee to gather input on freight system issues in their areas.

The next meeting is "On Call".